

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Currently amended) A foldable tent ~~wherein, comprising:~~

a covering; ~~is supported by~~

a plurality of outer poles; and

a plurality of frames connected to the outer poles,

wherein the frames ~~are comprised of~~ include a plurality of outer peripheral frames that define ~~the outer~~ an outer peripheral shape of the frames, and a plurality of reinforcement frames disposed inside of ~~which~~ and surrounded by the outer peripheral frames ~~surround~~, and

the outer peripheral frames are disposed ~~on the~~ on an upper portion of the poles to ~~link the~~ link neighboring outer poles and to form a polygon at least with,

wherein each of the outer poles ~~positioning are positioned~~ at the vertexes of the polygon in a plan view, and each of the outer poles being provided with is connected to a respective one of the reinforcement frame facing towards frames, the reinforcing frames extending from the outer poles in a direction of the towards a center of the polygon, and the foldable tent further comprising:

a center pole ~~is provided~~ provided at the center of the polygon ~~and is~~ and supported by the reinforcement frames,

wherein each of the outer peripheral frames and each of the reinforcement frames is ~~comprised of~~ includes two or more pairs of combined pipe units, at least one intersecting

point being formed at each of the pipe units, one of the pipe units and the other pipe unit being joined at the intersecting points to allow rotation, the outer peripheral frames and the reinforcement frames being foldable by changing ~~the angle~~ an angle between adjacent one of the pipe units, and

wherein the covering is supported by the poles, the outer peripheral frames and the reinforcement frames,

wherein the two or more pairs of combined pipe units of the reinforcement frames serve as reinforcement pipe units, and each includes two or more pairs of reinforcement unit pipe bodies that are foldably connected end-to-end one to another,

each of the two or more pairs of reinforcement unit pipe bodies including a first unit pipe body and a second unit pipe body, each of which has one of the intersecting points formed at an intermediate point along its length, and a folding point formed at each end thereof,

the first unit pipe body and the second unit pipe body of each pair of reinforcement unit pipe bodies being rotatably connected to each other at their respective intersecting points,

the first unit pipe bodies of the two or more pairs of reinforcement unit bodies being arranged end-to-end and being foldably connected at their folding points, and

the second unit pipe bodies of the two or more pairs of reinforcement unit bodies being arranged end-to-end and being foldably connected at their folding points, thereby allowing rotation between adjacent ones of the reinforcement unit pipe bodies, and enabling the reinforcement frames to be foldable,

wherein the folding points of the first and second unit pipe bodies closest to the center pole serve as pairs of connection points to the center pole, and the folding points of the first and second unit pipe bodies closest to the outer poles serve as pairs of connection points to the outer poles, and

when the tent sets on a horizontal surface, the pairs of connection points of the first and second unit pipe bodies closest to the center pole are at higher positions than positions of the pairs of connection points of the first and second unit pipe bodies closest to the outer poles,

wherein one of the two connection points at each of the outer poles is adapted to be slidable upwardly and downwardly by a first predetermined distance, and one of the two connection points at the center pole is adapted to be slidable upwardly and downwardly by a second predetermined distance smaller than the first predetermined distance,

wherein the other of the two connection points at each of the outer poles and the center pole not adapted to slide upwardly and downwardly, and

wherein all of the connection points at the outer poles and the center poles are adapted to be rotatable around axes of the poles.

2. (Currently Amended) The foldable tent as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein the outer peripheral pipe units on the outer peripheral frames are comprised of a plurality of unit pipe bodies connected at a folding point to allow rotation,~~

~~each of the outer peripheral pipe units being formed with at least two intersecting points and with a folding point formed in the manner to be sandwiched by the intersecting points,~~

~~at the intersecting points, the unit pipe bodies of one of the outer peripheral pipe units and the other outer peripheral pipe unit being connected to allow rotation, while the outer peripheral frames being foldable at the folding points,~~

wherein the two or more pairs of combined pipe units of the outer peripheral frames serve as outer peripheral pipe units, and each includes two or more pairs of outer peripheral unit pipe bodies that are foldably connected end-to-end one to another,

each of the two or more pairs of unit pipe bodies including a first unit pipe body and a second unit pipe body, each of which has an intersecting point formed at an intermediate point along its length, and a folding point formed at each end thereof,

the first unit pipe body and the second unit pipe body of each pair of outer peripheral unit pipe bodies being rotatably connected to each other at their respective intersecting points,

the first unit pipe bodies of the two or more pairs of unit bodies being arranged end-to-end and being foldably connected at their folding points, and the second unit pipe bodies of the two or more pairs of outer peripheral unit bodies being arranged end-to-end and being foldably connected at their folding points, thereby allowing rotation between adjacent ones of the outer peripheral unit pipe bodies, and enabling the outer peripheral frames to be foldable.

~~wherein the reinforcement pipe units on the reinforcement frames are comprised of a plurality of unit pipe bodies connected at a folding point to allow rotation,~~

~~each of the reinforcement pipe units being formed with at least two intersecting points and with a folding point formed in the manner to be sandwiched by the intersecting points,~~

~~at the intersecting points, the unit pipe bodies of one of the reinforcement pipe units and the other reinforcement pipe unit being connected to allow rotation, while the reinforcement frames being foldable at the folding points,~~

~~wherein the connection point on the upper side of the reinforcement pipe units with respect to the center pole is at a higher position compared to the connection point on the lower side of the reinforcement pipe units with respect to the poles in construction of the tent on a horizontal surface.~~

3. (Currently amended: due to amendments to claim 1) The foldable tent as set forth in claim 2, ~~wherein the reinforcement pipe units on the reinforcement frames are comprised of a plurality of unit pipe bodies connected at the folding point to allow rotation, and~~

when the tent sets on the horizontal surface, at least one of the first and second unit pipe bodies is disposed level arranged to be parallel to the horizontal surface or is arranged to aslant downward to the direction of the slope downwardly from the center of the polygon towards the outer poles in construction of the tent on a horizontal surface.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The foldable tent as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein, regarding the connection between the poles and the reinforcement frames and the connection between the center pole and the reinforcement frames, at least one of the connection points for the connecting the reinforcement frames to the center pole, and at least one of the connection points connecting the reinforcement frames to the outer poles is supported to have is provided with play that allows movement in the in a direction to intersect the outer poles, or to intersect the center pole.~~

6. (Original) The foldable tent as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outer peripheral shape defined by the outer peripheral frames is a rectangle formed by two opposing long sides and two short sides disposed at both ends of the long sides.

7. (Currently Amended) The foldable tent as set forth in claim 1, wherein, ~~regarding the connection between the poles and the reinforcement frames and the connection between the center pole and the reinforcement frames, the reinforcement frames are supported at least one of the connection points on the pole side and on center pole side to have at least one of the connection points connecting the reinforcement frames to the center pole, and at least one of the connection points connecting the reinforcement frames to the outer poles is provided with play for movement within a specified range in the~~ in a substantially periphery-peripheral direction on the basis of the poles or on the center pole of the polygon.

8. (Currently Amended) The foldable tent as set forth in claim 7, wherein each ~~of the pipe units is comprised of a plurality of unit pipe bodies, and, regarding the~~ at least one of the first and second unit pipe bodies that are supported to have said play with respect to is connected to the outer poles or the center pole and that is provided said play, the supporting is made is supported via a bracket provided on the outer poles or the center pole, the bracket having an inner surface on one side and an opposing inner surface on ~~the other~~ an opposite side, between which a terminal connection member of the unit pipe body is disposed,

wherein the unit pipe body is pivotally supported by a support pin disposed between the inner ~~surfaces~~ surface of the bracket to allow rotation around the support pin,

the terminal connection member of the unit pipe body having a tapering wedge shape,
~~on one~~

one side of the terminal connection member being provided with a parallel surface that is parallel ~~to the~~ to a longitudinal direction of the unit pipe body, ~~on the other~~

an opposite side of the terminal connection member being provided with a flat sloping surface that diminishes ~~the distance~~ a distance between the parallel surface and ~~the face as it goes~~ the flat sloping surface in a direction towards ~~the terminal side~~ the end of the unit pipe body,

~~wide holes~~ the terminal connection member including a hole penetrating therethrough
~~being formed on the terminal connection member in the vertical~~ in a direction with respect
orthogonal to the parallel surface, ~~penetrating the terminal connection member, and~~
~~extending in the~~ the hole being longer in the longitudinal direction of the unit pipe body than
in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction of the unit pipe body,

wherein the terminal connection member is movable with respect to the bracket within a predetermined range from a status where the inner surface of the bracket and the parallel surface of the terminal connection member touch, while there is a gap between the inner surface on the ~~other~~ opposite side and the sloping surface of the terminal connection member, to a status where there is a gap between the inner surface of the bracket and the

parallel surface of the terminal connection member, while the inner surface on the other side and the sloping surface of the terminal connection member touch.

9. (New) A foldable tent, comprising:

a covering;

a plurality of outer poles; and

a plurality of frames connected to the outer poles,

wherein the frames include a plurality of outer peripheral frames that define an outer peripheral shape of the frames, and a plurality of reinforcement frames disposed inside of and surrounded by the outer peripheral frames, and

the outer peripheral frames are disposed on an upper portion of the poles to link neighboring outer poles and to form a polygon ,

wherein each of the outer poles are positioned at the vertexes of the polygon in a plan view, and each of the outer poles is connected to a respective one of the reinforcement frames, the reinforcing frames extending from the outer poles in a direction towards a center of the polygon, and

the foldable tent further comprising:

a center pole provided at the center of the polygon and supported by the reinforcement frames,

wherein each pair of the reinforcement frames, disposed between the outer poles and the center pole includes a first outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body, a second outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body, a first center reinforcement unit pipe body, and a second center reinforcement unit pipe body,

wherein the first outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body and second outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body are pivotally supported at outer pole side intersecting points, while the first outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body and first center reinforcement unit pipe body are pivotally supported at folding points, thus forming a first reinforcement unit pipe,

wherein the first center reinforcement unit pipe body and second center reinforcement unit pipe body are pivotally supported at center intersecting points, while the second outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body and second center reinforcement unit pipe body are pivotally supported at other ones of the folding points, thus forming a second reinforcement unit pipe,

in the first and second reinforcement unit pipes, when the length of the intervals defined at the outer pole side intersecting points, the folding points, and the center intersecting points, are respectively, from an outer pole side, a first interval, second interval, third interval, and fourth interval, the second interval is shorter than the first interval, the second and third intervals being equal, the fourth interval being shorter than the third interval,

wherein each of the first outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body, the second outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body, the first center reinforcement unit pipe body, and the second center reinforcement unit pipe body includes a connection point,

the connecting points for connecting the first outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body and the second outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body to one of the outer poles, and for connecting the first center reinforcement unit pipe body and the second center reinforcement unit pipe body to the center pole, and

when the tent sets on a horizontal surface, the connection points of the first center reinforcement unit pipe body and the second center reinforcement unit pipe body are at higher positions than positions of the pairs of connection points of the first outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body and the second outer pole side reinforcement unit pipe body.

10. (New) A foldable tent as set forth in claim 9, wherein the outer peripheral frames include outer peripheral pipe units, each of which includes two pairs of outer peripheral unit pipe bodies that are foldably connected end-to-end one to another,

each of the two pairs of unit pipe bodies including a first unit pipe body and a second unit pipe body, each of which has an intersecting point formed at an intermediate point along its length, and a folding point formed at each end thereof,

Application No. 10/570,131
Amendment dated April 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 9, 2007

Docket No. 0037-0230PUS1
Art Unit: 3636
Page 14 of 21

the first unit pipe body and the second unit pipe body of each pair of outer peripheral unit pipe bodies being rotatably connected to each other at their respective intersecting points.